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IN THE UNITED STATES PATENT AND TRADEMARK OFFICE

In re Application of )  
Norman G. ANDERSON et al. ) BOX APPLICATION  
Serial No. (to be assigned) ) Examiner:  
Filed: 21 September 2000 ) Group Art Unit:  
For: DETECTION AND )  
CHARACTERIZATION OF )  
MICROORGANISMS )

PRELIMINARY AMENDMENT

Assistant Commissioner for Patents  
Washington, D.C. 20231

Dear Sir:

Prior to examination of the above-identified divisional application, please enter the following amendments thereto:

IN THE SPECIFICATION:

On page 1, line 5, before "The" please insert the following: -- The present application is a divisional application of U.S. patent application Serial No. 09/571,274, filed on 16 May 2000, which in turn is a divisional application of U.S. patent application Serial No. 09/265,541, filed on 9 March 1999. --

IN THE CLAIMS:

Please cancel claims 1-21, 23-43, 46-81 and 85-91.

Please amend claims 22, 44, 82 and 83 as follows.

-- 22 (amended). A method for measuring the amount of DNA or RNA in microorganisms, which comprises the steps of: